

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 24, 2003 has been fully considered by the Applicant.

Each of the independent claims, Claims 1, 12 and 49, has been amended to clearly convey that the polymer liquid at ambient temperature has a molecular weight less than 30,000.

The rejection of Claims 1 through 5, 7, 8, 12 through 15, 17 through 24, 49, 50 and 51, as now amended, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as anticipated by or obvious over Hagenbach et al. (Patent No. 4,567,222) is respectfully traversed. Hagenbach et al. in column 4, lines 45-50 states that the average molecular weight of the copolymer "may be advantageously comprised between 30,000 and 300,000 and located preferably between 70,000 and 200,000." Additionally, Example 1 of Hagenbach et al. (column 6, lines 65-69) states that the average molecular weight is equal to or about 75,000. Example 2 of Hagenbach et al. (column 8, lines 1-4) states that the average molecular weight of about 75,000 was utilized.

Example 4 (column 9, lines 65-69) utilizes a copolymer "having average viscosimetric molecular weight of about 78,000". Example 5 of Hagenbach et al. (column 10, lines 15-19) utilizes a copolymer "presenting an average viscosimetric mass of about 76,000." Finally, by way of example, Claims 7, 10, 11 and 18 of Hagenbach et al. have similar limitations.

Hagenbach et al. references French Patent No. 76.39233 which is the priority filing for Malonado et al. (Patent No. 4,145,322). Malonado et al. likewise teaches an average molecule or weight between 30,000 and 300,000 and preferably between 70,000 and 200,000.

As now amended, each of the independent claims is directed to a polymer liquid at ambient temperature having a molecular weight less than 30,000. Thus, the present invention is not anticipated by Hagenbach et al. In order to anticipate, a reference must show or disclose each and every claim limitation.


Not only does Hagenbach et al. not disclose or suggest the polymer but by it teaches away from utilizing a polymer having molecular weight less than 30,000.

In summary, none of the prior references teach the art of lower molecular weight (less than 30,000) liquid at ambient temperature polymers in combination with Group VIA elements.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If further issues are presented, a telephone conference with the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark G. Kachigian", written over a horizontal line.

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